



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 15, 2005

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BEAUMONT WOMAN ADMITS TO FEDERAL FIREARM VIOLATION

(Beaumont, TX) A 44-year-old Beaumont woman has pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm in the Eastern District of Texas.

PHYLLIS CARTWRIGHT entered her plea Monday morning before United States District Judge Thad Heartfield.

According to information presented in court, on August 3, 2004, Beaumont Police responded to a fatal shooting at Cartwright's home where they discovered a J.C. Higgins, 12-gauge shotgun. Further investigation revealed that in 1996, Cartwright was convicted of Aggravated Assault causing Serious Bodily Injury and Arson, both in Harris County, Texas. It is against federal law for a convicted felon to possess a firearm.

This case is being prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative. PSN is a comprehensive, strategic approach to gun law enforcement that targets gun crime and violent offenders in an effort to make our communities safer. Over the past four years, law enforcement across America increased federal gun crime prosecutions by 76%. Here in the Eastern District of Texas, gun crime prosecutions are up an impressive 93%.

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Cartwright faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine at sentencing. A sentencing date has not been set.

The case is being investigated by the Beaumont Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Wannarka is prosecuting the case.

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